

# COVID-19 Resilience

## RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is a rapidly-changing global health emergency. For the most recent updates from the City of Houston, visit: [houstonemergency.org/covid19](https://houstonemergency.org/covid19)

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Video Library



*OBO is here for your #HoustonStrong small business.*

- **Visit** our Online Resource Hub: [houstontx.gov/obo](https://houstontx.gov/obo).
- **Click here** to complete OBO's Resiliency Survey.
- **Contact** the OBO Solutions Center at [obosc@houstontx.gov](mailto:obosc@houstontx.gov) or 832-393-0954.

# 1: Stay Healthy



Continue to **prioritize your health and safety**, and that of your employees and customers.



Monitor the websites below and **stay informed** as health recommendations change to reflect new information.



**Slow the spread** by staying home, social distancing and seeking medical attention if you are experiencing symptoms or feeling sick.



**Take care of your mental health!**

Harris County COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line: 833-251-7544

## Find the latest emergency health information at:

- [houstonemergency.com/covid19](https://houstonemergency.com/covid19) - City of Houston integrated COVID-19 hub wealth of information on health and safety.
- [readyharris.org](https://readyharris.org) - Screening tool, health information and many other health resources from Harris County.
- [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus) - Center for Disease Control COVID-19 Information including: How to protect yourself, symptoms, and what to do if you are sick.
- [dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus) - Texas Department of Health COVID-19 Information

# 2: Work Safe: Business Operations

## #StayHomeWorkSafe

The City of Houston and Harris County are working together to implement the Stay Home, Work Safe instruction. While this order is in effect, individuals must remain home or at a place of residence, with exceptions for essential work and activities.



- Ready Harris: Houston and Harris County Orders & Updates ([www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org))
- Houston Work Safe Company Toolkit ([brandfolder.com/...](http://brandfolder.com/...))
- Essential Businesses and Activities ([www.readyharris.org/Stay-Home](http://www.readyharris.org/Stay-Home))
- Essential Business Exemption Application ([docs.google.com/...](http://docs.google.com/...))



## Additional Business Operations Information:

- CDC Guidance for Business and Employers ([cdc.gov/...](http://cdc.gov/...))
- Workers' Compensation ([www.tdi.texas.gov/...](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/...))
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act ([www.ralaw.com/...](http://www.ralaw.com/...)) This law requires all public employers and private employers with less than 500 employees to provide emergency paid sick leave in certain circumstances and extended paid caregiver leave to employees who are absent from work for reasons related to the novel coronavirus. The law will go into effect on April 2, 2020 and will expire on December 31, 2020. This [alert](#) summarizes the major requirements of the law relating to employers. The law provides employers with a refundable tax credit for benefits paid up to the caps set forth therein. A tax credit is also available for qualified health plan expenses.
- US Department of Labor COVID-19 Workplace Safety; Wages & Hours ([www.dol.gov/coronavirus](http://www.dol.gov/coronavirus))

# 3: Business Resources for COVID-19

As COVID-19 specific information becomes available for small businesses from business support organizations and governmental agencies, we will update our Resource Hub at [houstontx.gov/obo](http://houstontx.gov/obo).

## Local Small Business Advising

- OBO: Virtual one-on-one business counseling by appointment with Dr. Porscha Jackson, Business Development Manager, [Porscha.Jackson@houstontx.gov](mailto:Porscha.Jackson@houstontx.gov).
- SCORE Business Mentoring ([core.score.org/...](http://core.score.org/))
- SBDC Virtual Business Advising & Coronavirus Resources ([www.sbdc.uh.edu/...](http://www.sbdc.uh.edu/))

## COVID-19 Business Resource Lists

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act Small Business Guide ([www.sbc.senate.gov/...](http://www.sbc.senate.gov/))
- Greater Houston Partnership COVID-19 Resources ([www.houston.org/coronavirus](http://www.houston.org/coronavirus))
- OBO Resources for Restaurateurs, Grocers, Hospitality ([houstontx.gov/obo/...](http://houstontx.gov/obo/))
- Hello Alice Business Center ([www.covid19businesscenter.com](http://www.covid19businesscenter.com))
- Small Business Development Center Coronavirus Info ([americassbdc.org/...](http://americassbdc.org/))
- ICIC Small Business Resource Center ([icic.org/...](http://icic.org/))
- Houston ImpactHub Startup Resources ([houston.impacthub.net/...](http://houston.impacthub.net/))
- US Chamber of Commerce Small Business Resources ([www.uschamber.com/...](http://www.uschamber.com/))
- US Chamber of Commerce Emergency Toolkit ([www.uschamber.com/...](http://www.uschamber.com/))
- Better Business Bureau ([www.bbb.org/...](http://www.bbb.org/))
- ERC Coronavirus Resource Center ([www.yourerc.com/...](http://www.yourerc.com/))
- Healthcare & Public Health Industry Resources ( [healthcareready.org/covid19](http://healthcareready.org/covid19))

## Tools for Businesses and Workers

- Business Matchmaker Portal: This business opportunity matchmaking portal allows those interested in buying products OR services to input their needs and requirements in order to be matched with those that meet their specifications. For buyers [click here](#). For suppliers [click here](#).
- Employee Recruitment ([www.wrksolutions.com](http://www.wrksolutions.com))
- Human Resource Best Practices ([www.shrm.org/...](http://www.shrm.org/...))
- Unemployment Assistance ([twc.texas.gov/...](http://twc.texas.gov/...))
- Report Scams or Price Gouging: Office of the Attorney General toll-free complaint line (800) 621-0508 or [file a complaint online](#).
- BBB: Coronavirus Consumer Protection ([www.bbb.org/...](http://www.bbb.org/...))
- Federal Income Tax Deadlines Extended to July 15 ([irs.gov/coronavirus](http://irs.gov/coronavirus))



## Video Library

- *CARES Act Explained*
- *For Restaurants*
- *For HR*
- *For Nonprofits*
- *For Real Estate*

# 4: Business Loans & Assistance

## Federal Small Business Assistance

- **Small Businesses Administration (SBA)** COVID-19-related economic relief small business loans for qualifying borrowers. ([www.sba.gov/...](http://www.sba.gov/)) These low-interest loans are designed to meet payroll obligations and other major expenses like mortgages, rent, and utilities. *For some businesses, a portion may be forgivable.*
- [sba.gov/tx/houston](http://sba.gov/tx/houston) - Locally adapted support resources and daily webinars.

## Other Loans:

- LiftFund: COVID-19 Disaster Relief Guidance ([liftfund.com/...](http://liftfund.com/))
- Opportunity Fund Microloans ([opportunityfund.org](http://opportunityfund.org))
- PeopleFund COVID-19 Response Loans ([peoplefund.org/...](http://peoplefund.org/))
- TruFund Small Business COVID-19 Relief Fund ([trufund.org/...](http://trufund.org/))
- CDC Small Business Finance Emergency Loans ([cdcloans.com/emergencyrelief](http://cdcloans.com/emergencyrelief))
- Lender Matchmaking ([matchfinder.venturize.org](http://matchfinder.venturize.org))
- Community Financial Development Institutions (CDFIs) lend to businesses who have challenges with accessing funding from traditional banking institutions. Locate your nearest CDFI at [ofn.org](http://ofn.org).

## Assistance with Completing Funding Applications & Accessing Funds

- SCORE Mentors ([core.score.org/...](http://core.score.org/))
- SBDC Video Mentoring ([sbdc.uh.edu/...](http://sbdc.uh.edu/))
- TruFund ([form.jotform.com/trufund/...](http://form.jotform.com/trufund/))

## Other Financial Assistance

- Hello Alice Emergency Grant ([businessforall.helloalice.com/...](http://businessforall.helloalice.com/))
- Texas Restaurant Relief Fund & Food Service Relief Funds ([txrestaurant.org/...](http://txrestaurant.org/))
- Impact Hub is offering social enterprises support through Fiscal Sponsorship ([houston.impacthub.net/...](http://houston.impacthub.net/))

# 5: Business Resilience Planning

Resilience is key to business longevity when times are uncertain, unpredictable, and unstable. Is your business prepared to withstand the unknown and be able to bounce back from natural disasters and other emergencies?

- **Small Business Resiliency Checklist**

Assess your business disaster response situation with [this checklist from TruFund](#).



- **Resilience in Box**

Based on best practices and designed to educate newcomers on business resilience, these resources will guide companies toward addressing preparedness issues while building in flexibility to handle potential business interruptions. ([uschamberfoundation.org/resilience-box](http://uschamberfoundation.org/resilience-box))



- **Ready Houston**

Disaster readiness resources ([readyhouston.tx.gov](http://readyhouston.tx.gov))



- **Houston Recovers**

Extensive recovery and volunteer resource information ([houstonrecovers.org](http://houstonrecovers.org))



- **Resilient Houston**

What kind of city will Houston be in 2050? What threats and opportunities will we face together? ([houston.tx.gov/...](http://houston.tx.gov/...))



## 6: OBO Services

The Office of Business Opportunity remains open to support the needs of your small business, offering our core certification, contract compliance, and business development services.

OBO has temporarily suspended in-person Certification workshops (typically held on Thursdays at 2:00pm). Instead, we offer online Certification workshops available via the following links:

- [Certification Workshop in English](#)
- [Certification Workshop in Spanish](#)

If you have any questions after you have viewed the online workshops, please email us at [obocertification@houstontx.gov](mailto:obocertification@houstontx.gov) or call us at 832.393.0600 (Option 1).

You can also sign up for weekly email updates about resources and procurement opportunities by emailing [obosc@houstontx.gov](mailto:obosc@houstontx.gov).



*Do you know of additional resources? Email us!*

**Office of Business Opportunity**  
OBO Main Line: 832-393-0600  
OBO Solutions Center: 832-393-0954  
[obosc@houstontx.gov](mailto:obosc@houstontx.gov)



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